



Postgame Quotes

Los Angeles Chargers at Carolina Panthers – September 15, 2024

PANTHERS HEAD COACH DAVE CANALES

Opening Statement

Saw some improvements in terms of taking care of the ball. We'd like to not have that interception. We would like to be clean with the football. Good step right there. The run game, I was excited about seeing where we were going to go with the run game. It really just came down to third down again. Offensively, defensively, just not acceptable from a coaching standpoint, from a player standpoint, all of us. We all have to take our responsibility on the third down so we can get more opportunities to run the ball, to throw our actions, to do those things that we really want to do, that we see ourselves heading towards. We really didn't give ourselves a chance there. I couldn't ask this group to play harder than they did. There was great effort on the field. Everybody was laying out all the way through the whole time, trying to make the most of this game right there. We come out of the half, get the ball back, just really hoping to start to get some rhythm. We really never found it. Again, just another frustrating day for the whole group. But my message to the team was just really valuing the way that they attacked the work, the way that they gave great effort and did all those things. We just have a lot to clean up. The focus this week is going to be third down as a group.

On throwing short of the sticks on third down and if those were play calls

They're built in. But the whole thing, again, we have to evaluate. Just trying to be able to make sure we're challenging the sticks, try to put ourselves in situations right there. Some of it was by design. The plays come off how they will. But in general, we had opportunities on both sides of third downs to make plays. It comes down to making plays. For sure, as the head coach and responsible for the offense, I have to make sure that I continue to work with our staff to really figure out what those things are that are going to give us a chance to be successful.

On how he would describe QB Bryce Young's confidence

Well, I got to look at the film. I got to talk to him some more. I think as a group, offensively, defensively, this is a group that's working their tails off trying to get things going to try to find our style of football. I can't make any specific comments about any one player particularly. As you can understand, we're all frustrated and would like to play better football.

On whether he considered substituting Andy Dalton for Young

Bryce is our quarterback. I'd love to see this thing continue to take the next steps offensively right now.

On whether Young will start next week

Bryce is our quarterback. We're going to just continue to shore up and fix the things we need to fundamentally, from a scheme standpoint, all those things. These are all valuable reps, all valuable games. We'll learn a lot from this game and hopefully will take another step (next) week.

On what plays he sees that are not working and (what plays) are not being able to run right now

Yeah, that's the challenge. That's the challenge for us as a staff, is to continue to figure out our guys and put them in the best situations to make plays.

On how long the message to the players will last until they see it translate to the field

Regardless of the outcome, it's trusting the process. It's going right back to work. It's watching the film, improving the fundamental things that we can control. Again, just honing in on things that we feel we can execute. Really, the process won't change. It's got to be that type of focus (and) intentionality. It requires a lot of discipline to continue to stay with the process that we have in place and how to work and how to go about it. Until I call a perfect game, until anybody plays a perfect game, we have things to work on as a group. This is a very accountable group from a staff and player standpoint. We'll keep just staying together and working on the issues that we need to address.

On whether he were surprised how quickly the fans booed the team

Honestly, my focus right now is to try to put our players in the best position to execute. So I just have to keep my focus there. I have to keep my energy with our group, with our guys, to commend them for the things we did well and to correct the things we'd like to see improvement on.

On frustration on the sideline and whether he said anything to the group

We're all frustrated. It comes down to execution, every phase. We're all frustrated, so... I think that we're all in the same boat there. We all feel the same way about going back to our work, about controlling the controllables. Definitely, it is a frustrating time. The guys are staying together. They're talking through stuff. Emotions and passion run hard, especially in this league. We got to continue to work to improve.

On maintaining WB Bryce Young's confidence after a couple tough games in a row

It's about the process. Just go right back to work regardless of the outcomes. We have to continue to have that discipline, to go back to our fundamentals, to fix our basics, to continue to become us, figure out the things that we have to do to be successful.

On whether the interception was the same play as New Orleans on how the two receivers ended up in the same area

I got to watch the film to see exactly what happened. A lot happens fast. The result wasn't what we wanted. We'll have more information as we go.

On whether the play call was similar to the play in New Orleans...

No, it wasn't. Same result, so something we have to look at and evaluate.

On whether he can point to any specific improvements from last week...

I thought the effort was great last week. I thought it was great this week. We challenged the guys. They took the challenge, had a great week of practice. Saw that. Again, talked about the improvement with the ball. We'd love a zero, we'd love a doughnut in terms of the turnovers there. Saw improvement in special teams. Johnny [Hekker] had a fantastic punt inside the five. Put it at the one-yard line. The coverage units were solid. The return units were solid. I love that we took a step there. Saw improvement in the run game. Again, I can't say the run game was great. We just didn't give enough opportunities to get back to it. I saw the defense play the run better. A couple plays got out on us, but for the most part guys were more disciplined about where they're supposed to be, the techniques, running and hitting. I really appreciate the response from the guys that way.

On whether he expected growing pains with the offense and its level of progress compared to where you thought the unit was coming out of training camp...

Yeah, I expected us to take time to become us, to figure out the things that we do well. We're still in that process. I don't like to set really expectations. What I need to do is continue to gather information, gather this game,

gather the next one, look at the film, really just continue to fine-tune and to hone into the things we feel like we can execute.

On whether there are any injury updates on DE A'Shawn Robinson

We don't have anything specific right now. We'll have more in the next couple days.

On whether there are additional injury updates

I think we came out pretty clean. We came out pretty clean. The guys played hard. I'm sure there's going to be some normal soreness from playing a physical game. I've got to tip my hat to the Chargers playing the style of football that I would love to get our guys to match that. They had a great day on third down, which gave them the opportunity to continue to get those runs and those actions called. Tip of the cap to those guys.

On whether this is what he had in mind regarding the defense attacking the ball

Absolutely. It was a great response from the group. It all starts off with them being in position. They did a great job of playing their leverage which gives us a chance to make plays, make punches on the ball, to be in phase for interceptions and those things by just doing our job.

On whether those were Young's decisions on where he was going with the ball, the play calling or design of the plays

It's all of us. It's all of us we have to look at and continue to improve.

On whether the protection is holding up well enough to take better shots downfield

I have to watch the film, see how it all came up. I'll have more information for you.

PANTHERS QUARTERBACK BRYCE YOUNG

On his confidence

Confident. I draw my confidence from the Lord. I'm very blessed. I'm grateful for this challenge. Not an ideal start, but God does everything for a reason. I have faith in that.

On boos from fans

I respect the passion that this city has for the team. Obviously, that's part of it. I respect the passion of the city.

On whether there were play options to stretch the defense

Yeah, I trust coach's game plan. We have to do a better job of executing it. Again, I've got all the faith in the world in coach and stuff we're putting in, the stuff we're calling. It starts with me. I have to do a better job of executing. All of us as players, we have to do a better job of executing. We all take accountability of that.

On the interception

I definitely was a little too greedy there trying to make a play, trying to make something happen. I have to protect my play-caller in a situation like that. Good run. Just wanted to get something going, which is not the mindset, especially in that down and distance. Again, 100% on me. I've got to do a better job.

Whether he feels like he needs to improve

Yeah, I think I just got to do a better job with decision making, as well. You always want to make a play. You want to do something. Obviously, part of the position is being the game manager. Some bad instances of that on film today. I definitely take accountability for that.

On frustration on the sideline

I mean, we're all competitors. We all want to win, obviously. Not the start we wanted. It's frustrating. But at the end of the day on the sidelines, just trying to get it right for the next series, for the future, for whatever it is. We always want to be constructive, make sure that we're communicating, not back and forth or pointing fingers. Just want to talk through things. Again, we have emotions, we're all competitors. At the end of the day, that's what we're trying to do on the sideline.

On any specific things he can take away from today's performance

Yeah. It will come on Monday. Again, we got to watch the film, talk to the coaches, talk to the guys, make sure we're seeing things on the same plane. Don't want to make any judgments before the film is watched and we all get to talk about it.

On whether third down throws short of the sticks were play design or his decisions...

I think a mixture of everything. It all plays into effect. At the end of the day, I have the ball in my hands. We talk about things throughout the week. Didn't get some of the outcomes that we were looking for on third down today. That's on me. No matter what the situation is, it's always my job to go out there and for us to convert, execute. I fell short today. I have to do a better job.

On his message to the wide receiver room to uplift their spirits...

Just continue to be them. We have a ton of talent in the receiver room, a ton of great players. Didn't click these first two games. Just have faith in it clicking. I'm super grateful to have the room that I do. We're all working hard. They all care. They're all passionate. They all want to be the best that they can. That's the mentality we all have. Just all of us keeping our head down, continue to work, take it day by day.

On support from Coach Canales

I'm super grateful for Coach Canales. I have full trust in him as a coach, as a play-caller, in the system that they've brought in, who we are. We have to do a better job executing, helping him out. This is obviously tough times, but I think it's a great opportunity for us, our relationship, for the entire team to grow during tough times. That's also a part of it that comes from it. I'm super grateful for coach. We all want to do a better job executing for him and for the entire team.

On the challenge of seeing the light at the end of the tunnel

It's fresh right now. Obviously, just finished the game I don't know how long ago. It's fresh. It's tough right now. Again, I draw my confidence from God. I have faith in Him. No matter how high or how low, I always trust in Him. At the end of the day, no matter how I'm feeling, I always try to revert to that. I appreciate you guys.

PANTHERS RUNNING BACK CHUBA HUBBARD

On his reaction to the loss

Obviously, it doesn't feel good. We've got to change some things here; it's not going to happen overnight. I know a lot of people are disappointed, a lot of people want to see results now, but we are in it for the long haul, just going to keep chopping at the tree, and sooner or later it's going to fall so you just have to have faith.

On what he has seen from the offensive line

We have a great O-line, did a great job doing whatever you said we averaged today (5.0 YPC) and it shows, so they did a great job.

On if he is concerned about QB Bryce Young's confidence

No, Bryce will be fine. We've got to keep him up, keep each other up, it's going to be a lot of adversity, we've been through a lot of adversity so the best thing to do is to just stay together, stay connected and get through it. Bryce is a great player, has a ton of confidence and you can't just lose that because of one or two games.

On how last season prepared guys to deal with hardships

To be honest, I really can't answer that because I'm not even thinking about last year or how it affected me or this and that. I'm onto a new year. This is a new team, new coaching staff, new mindset for me, new challenges, just have to face them.

On what progress he saw in the offense

Yeah, I feel like we ran the ball well, I feel like there were glimpses of passing the ball, I feel like protecting. There are glimpses of what we could be, we just have to be able to put it all together for a full game. It can't be for one quarter or for a few plays or one half, it's got to be for a full game. We have the guys, we have the coaches, but like I said we have to put it together.

On his reaction to the crowd booing

Fans, the crowd, they are always going to have an opinion. They are going to be upset if they don't see what they want, but at the end of the day, it's what we do on the field that matters. You can't really pay attention to that stuff or it'll be tough. Just focus on executing the plays that are called and going forward.

On if the fans booing motivates him at all

I mean definitely, we are a team that can do things. Like I said, we've got the coaching staff, we've got the players, we just have to put it all together. Like I said, adversity is going to hit. It shows your best colors, or your worst, and for us I know it'll bring out our best. It's two games, we've got 15 more.

On what is stopping the team from reaching their full potential

Execution, having all that effort and execution for a full game not just one drive. Like I said earlier, we have the coaches, we have the players, it's just putting it together now, trusting everyone.

On his confidence level in QB Bryce Young moving forward

I have the most confidence in Bryce, the most confidence in this team, that never varies or wearies for me. I trust my coaches, I trust my players, I trust my teammates, so it's more so just putting it together. I know obviously from the outside looking in it can be different, everyone can have their opinion on that, but we are not messed by that, we don't hear that. Just looking to move forward.

PANTHERS GUARD ROBERT HUNT**On if he believes in quarterback Bryce Young**

Oh yeah, we all believe in Bryce. Bryce is our quarterback. We just need him to stand the right way, we've all got to do better.

On blocking out the negativity

We got to go in, come in tomorrow, watch the film, do what we do. Of course, the doubters and all that was here, like they just did, you know what I mean, they've been a lot of doubters. The only thing we can do is come back to work and try to get better. They are going to talk regardless. It is what it is, and that's just what we're here to try and change. We got to change and if we don't change it, then we keep going.

On the boos from the fans

It just shows that this city and this fan base want to win. You can't blame them, they want to win. Everybody wants to win, everybody wants someone to root for, right? And it hasn't been the best couple of years, so they panic. They see it going the wrong way and they panic, alright same old, same old. But our job is to come in, try to get better, see what we can improve and give them something to be happy for and cheer for.

PANTHERS CORNERBACK JAYCEE HORN

On what went wrong during the game

A lot of stuff. Still got to do a better job of stopping the run. I gave up an explosive play down the field. That was the start of it and just rolled from there. But I'm proud of the way we finished and the way everybody just showed effort, kept playing. So, we got to circle back, and you know, you're back next week.

On areas the defense needs to correct

I just told you. Stop the run, limiting explosives. It's really as simple as that. If we don't stop the run in the NFL, then you can't stop anything. And then if you're giving up explosives, that makes it tough. You just got to be able to get off the field on third down and just keep playing ball.

On the read on the touchdown play after the would-be turnover

I mean, the play happened so fast, I really wasn't sure. I didn't look at the replay, but that really doesn't matter. I still got to be better on the next. You know, it's next play mentality and you just got to be better on the next play. I got to get that ball down and give the offense a chance to come out on the field.

On team frustrations since the start of the season

It's losing, you know, in general. We didn't have too good of a season last year, so to start the first two games with an L [loss], it's tough. But, we got to keep the mindset that we still got 14 more games and then, any given Sunday, we got to get better each and every day throughout the week. Then, put it on the field on Sunday.

PANTHERS WIDE RECEIVER ADAM THIELEN

On what played into his emotions boiling over

Well, I've learned over the years that there's times when you're open, but there's a lot of other factors. That's why it's never pointed at an individual or anything. It's more just frustration, like you're trying to get going. When you don't have a target early in the game as a receiver, it's hard to get that adrenaline. So, you're trying to create adrenaline and sometimes that boil over is all you need to give yourself some adrenaline. That's not how I should act for my team's sake, but individually, I was just trying to get myself going.

On what he says to keep quarterback Bryce Young from getting discouraged

I think number one, I went over and I apologized to him because it wasn't, again, directed at anyone, but when you do that, it feels probably like it's directed at someone. I don't know how he felt about it, but again, take accountability. I apologized. I can't do that. I can't let my cool down. We talk through games, we talk during the week. He's a great kid. I love that guy and I'm fighting for him. I'm fighting for him. I'm fighting for all my teammates. Again, when you put so much into this game, and I know that I don't have a lot of time left, you feel that and you put it all out there every single day in practice, in games. You just want to see some results as an offense, as a team, because I know these guys. We fought together. We have the guys. We just have to figure it out.

On what has to change moving forward

Yeah, we have to change what's happening. Now the other stuff, that's totally out of my control. That's above my pay grade. Like I said, I love Bryce [Young], man. He works his butt off. He's a great player. This is not a Bryce

Young issue. This is an offensive team issue. We are all in this together. I know football is – it's why I love this game with everything I have – because it is the greatest team game. It's not about an individual. It's not basketball where you can have one or two good players and have success. In this league, in this game, you have to have 11 guys on the same page to have individual success. There is no individual on this offense that is to blame. It's a collective thing. I'm excited about where we can go, but we need to figure out how to have urgency to get that done.

On if he and wide receiver Diontae Johnson were supposed to be in the same area on that interception

You're probably not supposed to technically be in the same spot, but the way they played the coverage, it ended up being like that, which is not a good feeling.

PANTHERS WIDE RECEIVER DIONTAE JOHNSON

On ways the offense can improve

I can't really say anything. We just have to go out there and execute better. Obviously, we just have to go out there, come off the ball fast, execute and make plays down the field and get the run game going. It sucks that we don't start off how we want to start and that we are playing catchup. It's tough when you're down by two touchdowns and trying to get a little rhythm going, but like I said we just have to start out fast.

On if the team saw any areas of improvement

Yeah, at times. When we run the ball, get on blocks, receivers blocking on the outside for the running backs. From a passing standpoint, we just have to say, 'hold up' or whatever the case may be and just try to help our quarterback and our defense.

On the level of frustration when the passing game isn't where they want it to be

It's tough, but you can't show it. You have to just keep playing. Players playing with rapport at all times because the ball is coming your way every time.

On if there was any surprise with the lack of down field plays

We all are, but it is what it is. We aren't the ones calling the plays, so our job is to go out there and execute every play that they call and put it on film.

On if he is concerned about not throwing the ball near the line to gain on third downs

I mean yeah, but at the end of the day my job is to go play and whatever play they call, do my best.

On what he says to encourage quarterback Bryce Young

Just try to uplift him. Get a spark going. Try to get the offense going or whatever the case may be, but my job is to get open and make plays down the field.

On what the conversations look like when he's trying to get on the same page as Bryce Young

It's just small talk. Trying to see what we can do better and fix for the next opportunity. That's really what it comes down to.

On what happened on the interception where he was targeted

It was Cover 4. The safety stared me down the whole way and kind of broke in front of me, so I wasn't able to cut him off, and he just made a play on the ball.

On if Bryce Young still has his support

For sure. He's our quarterback. He's my guy at the end of the day. We clicked as soon as I came in and just because we lost two games doesn't mean I'm going to switch up on him. So, I've got his back regardless.

On if he thinks Bryce Young gives the team the best chance to win

Yeah. No doubt, no question.

PANTHERS CENTER AUSTIN CORBETT

On whether there was any frustration with the play calling

It doesn't matter. It's all guys all the time. It doesn't matter what play is called. We have to go make the play. We have to go execute, we have to be NFL players. Be accountable. It doesn't matter what play's called, be a superstar and go make a play.

On Bryce's confidence and body language

He still is who he is. He's 'So-Cal' chill. It's Bryce, that's what he does. He has the quiet confidence about him that he doesn't show and that's fine. He knows who he is. He knows he's a phenomenal player and he's going to get the job done and he trusts himself.

On whether Bryce's confidence has changed

No, he's Bryce. Everyone wants to make a story, I get it. He's Bryce, he's going to be fine.

On Coach Canales' thoughts on building a unit and 'becoming us'

I mean, we saw more improvement today being able to run the ball efficiently like that. Guys getting on the same page, handling movement and being able to take care of it. The NFL, you don't know, that's the thing. You go through your life figuring your life out, you're never really complete. I think that's the biggest part is when we figure out us, we're always going to be figuring out us. It's going to be one day at a time and a part of who we are. It's the constant growth and development and the going with what we got.

On third down struggles and the root of frustration throughout the game

Yeah, third down, absolutely. You're not converting on third down, you're not able to get into a flow of a game. You're not able to open up with the run action with any of the deeper pass concepts. And so when you're not converting, you're just sitting back there kicking yourself and so it starts being able to convert on third down. Run the ball well, it's a big step from last week, and just controlling how we want to control the front and going from there.



Postgame Quotes

Los Angeles Chargers at Carolina Panthers – September 15, 2024

CHARGERS HEAD COACH JIM HARBAUGH

On the fast start to the season

Well, we definitely do keep track of something historic like what J.K. Dobbins has done with the plus 100-yard games in back-to-back games. I think it hasn't been done ever by the Chargers. I don't know how many it's been done by the rest of the NFL, but so excited for him. Elijah Molden, I take my hat off to Joe Hortiz and Chad Alexander and the whole pro personnel department for finding Elijah for us. He's come in and been such a great addition. Just so quick, he's added him to the team and knowing what to do, first of all, in about a week, two-week time frame is commendable in itself. But, the way he is playing, he is tackling. He has the huge interception today. Phenomenal. Maybe nobody more excited for than Quentin Johnston. Q, everybody on the team really likes Q and loves him, respects him. Probably most of all because he's kind of been picked on by a lot of people. It doesn't phase him. He just keeps doing him, and he works on stuff that he needs to get better at. That's the most important part. He doesn't ever get the big head. Just keep doing you, Q. It's working. To make the tough contested catch, the touchdown, then work his way open on the second touchdown, huge. And continues to make these tough catches across the middle. I mean, not many people do that when they're just a heavy ball lasered right on you in traffic, contested again today or on the move. So excited about that. Great game. A lot of people. Derwin James, love the way he runs and hits. Everybody who likes football would. Denzel Perryman, same type of player there. Our offensive line I thought took another step. Great to see Gus Edwards getting into the mix and having a really good game. And J.K., you know, another big, big long run. Those are hard to get. Those are hard to get in the National Football League - plus-40-yard runs. A lot of good defense. Again, another great performance. Another thing that's really hard to get is four three-and-outs to start the game. Haven't seen that much at all. Then the fifth drive was one first down and then interception. Just played lights-out defensively. Timely sacks, timely plays, timely PBU's, great calls by Jesse Minter coming into those in those situational football. Excited about our team playing complementary football, all three phases. Really played well today.

On running the ball a lot to start the season

Well, every game is different. We know that. But it was great. Justin, 70% completion today. Puts the ball on a dime to Q at the beginning. I mean, I think he reminded everybody that he's one of the best quarterbacks in the National Football League. We're going to lean on both. We're going to lean on both. And whatever works, whatever we think can work, but there's going to be opposing wills every single game, every single week. The margin is credit card thin, you know. So, it's almost like an opener. You know, there was an opener last week. This was an opener and road opener. Our guys seem to do well with the openers. Let's just turn them all into openers and just keep playing them one game at a time, one play at a time, one game at a time, one day at a time.

On J.K.'s performances the past two games?

JIM HARBAUGH: It's just thrilling really, Chris. Completely thrilling. When a player injures himself, Achilles, the ACL, the patella tendon, those real big ones, those long-term injuries that take a long time to rehab. They're

immobile for months. Atrophy occurs just for the normal person to get back to where they can walk without a limp and to be able to function on a day-to-day basis. Takes a lot of rehab for any human being to do that, let alone to get back to being an elite athlete playing at the highest level of football. That's grueling. You hit about a three month on the back end of those rehabs, that's grueling to try to get from, you know, just to be able to function to play at this elite level. To watch him come back even stronger, quicker, faster than before the injury, what a testament to his will. Then to have this kind of success, you don't know when you come back from one of those things what it's going to be like when you actually stick that foot in the ground and there's a 250 or 350-pound guy, putting all their body weight on you into the tackle with force because they're big guys moving fast. You just don't know what it's going to be like, or to anchor down in pass protection like he's shown that he can do until you do it. So it's just incredible, just incredible what -- just the testament to his physical athleticism, plus the grueling rehab he went through, and the mindset it takes to be able to do that is -- a lesser man wouldn't. Put it that way. Lesser than who would have not been able to do what J.K. has been able to do.

On if he was stressed out by the somersault in the end zone?

No, no.

On what he thought of J.K Dobbins flip

It's something I've never been able to do. I know people can do it rather easily. Something I always tried to do. You know, rehearsed it. I tried to flip off a diving board into water. I've tried to do it off of a trampoline. I only tried it once off the ground like he did it. Pretty much every time for some reason I stop mid-turn. Yeah, just cool. I've always admired people that could do that. It's something I'm missing not getting that last part of it in.

On the first half of the game

Really great half, great team play. Great effort, again. You know, by the talent and by the effort, you will be known as a football player. I've always thought that. That's biblical to me. That's like a tree shall be known by its fruit. Football players shall be known by his talent and his effort and our guys continue to be really good at both. All three phases. Just came out ready, came out hitting on all cylinders. Yeah, very impressive. Really, really happy. Really happy that the guys just attack what's in front of them, the task in front of them. They know it's critical. They know it's critical. It's as important as it gets what you do on game day.

On what winning two in a row does to a locker room

I don't know. I mean, I don't know all the answers to those things. I don't think anybody is going to really be thinking about it too much. Just take it one day at a time and keep attacking what you are doing. High expectations for a day's practice or a day's training or a day's meeting. Then you feel like that training adds up, and then you can trust your training. I think that's how our guys approach it. I mean, they do it for the joy. There's an energy and a joy about it, which you love to see. I mean, you are working hard and having fun doing it. That's really good. That's a great combination.

On the decision to stay in Charlotte this week to practice

Getting the body clock right, cutting down the travel time. Not just in the air, but all the different travel time. The body clock, it's like, we would fly back tonight, and we would be getting back on a plane in practically four and a half days and flying back. That's the main reason for doing it. The 10:00 West Coast time, body clock. Just some of the studies, by people a lot smarter than me have figured out that's a good way to do it. I think the other thing -- it wouldn't work if people were opposed to it, and our guys haven't been. They were like, "hey, Let's do that. That would be fun." One of the players said -- and I kind of stole his line the other day, but he said I packed the board games and the snacks. I shamelessly took that from the person. Sorry, Justin Herbert. That was Justin's. It was so good, I just had to. I give full credit to Justin for that. Derwin James said, "hey, Coach, that would be great, want to do that. We want to do it, that would be great team bonding". Rashawn Slater, another captain, said he had never done that, but he was all for it. Just makes you feel so good. These guys really enjoy each other's company. Yeah, it wouldn't be as good if they didn't, and it wouldn't be possible if people didn't want to do it. Not ideal, but let's try to do what's best. Best for our players. Whatever is best for the players, you know. Whatever puts them in the

best possible position, whatever is better for their safety and their performance, then appreciate the Spanos family for doing whatever it takes to make that happen. We know that they got our backs. They got our back, front, and sides. Dean Spanos, John Spanos, A.G. Spanos, Susie Spanos, they got us. They got our front, back, and sides. And we love them for it. It just makes you want to -- it makes you want to, like, run through the proverbial wall for our ownership because they truly care about us. I think that's another benefit. We'll get back, get some regrouping, refitting, retooling, get some treatment, and get back to work because it's going to be -- as everybody knows, that's a tough game in Pittsburgh. They're a tough team to beat.

CHARGERS QUARTERBACK JUSTIN HERBERT

On whether there's something special with this team

I think it's definitely a great opportunity for us to keep playing. You know, we always take it one week at a time, and I think that's one of the great things that Coach Harbaugh has taught us. You can't be 2-0 without being 1-0, and you can't be 1-0 without winning the first one. That's the way it's been. I think guys are really enjoying playing, they go out there and they have a lot of fun. You see it in the defense. They fly around and create turnovers and come up with some big plays like that. As long as everyone is enjoying it, playing fast, I think we can play some pretty great football.

On what impressed him the most about the run game

Yeah, it was just relentless. It was all game. To be able to run the ball like that, it sure keeps the chains moving. I don't know the exact stats, but I think I saw 20 first downs in the fourth quarter by then. So, to be able to keep the ball moving like that, keep the defense off the field and give them some time to rest, I think that's how you win some football games.

On how different is it playing quarterback when you can run the ball effectively

Yeah, it's a little different. It's definitely super helpful, just going out there and knowing that you can hand the ball off to J.K. Dobbins and Gus Edwards, and they're going to fight for every yard. It's a great offensive line that battles play in and play out. We believe in those guys big time. So when we take our shots, take what the defense gives us, especially in the passing game, I think it's only going to help us.

On if he feels there is a little bit less on his shoulders in terms of being a passer when you have a backfield

I think it's an interesting question. I think my job as a quarterback is just to be a point guard, to get them the ball, to get us in the right looks. There are definitely some plays that I would love to have back today, but to be able to run the ball like that and give our ball to the playmakers and let them go make the plays. As long as I'm doing that, I'm doing my job.

On what was it like working with WR Quentin Johnston today

It was awesome to see. We believe in him so much, and we've seen that from him in camp and OTAs. He's gone up and made plays. It was only a matter of time before we saw it on the big stage. I'm happy for him. Really excited for him. I know it's only the beginning for him.

On what he saw specifically from the Panthers defensively on Quentin's first touchdown

I think it was just a press man look. It's one of those things that you're alert and saying, Hey, we're going to give this guy a shot. It's going to be a 50/50 ball, but with Q [Quentin] we believe the odds are tilted in our favor. I was safe to go back just a couple of step drops, threw the ball up and let him go get it.

On if he checked into it

No, it's built into the play. It's just a pure progression where you are reading, hey, this guy, this guy, this guy. You're moving on, but you are staying on him. Especially knowing it's man-to-man press coverage.

On if the run game opens things up for them offensively

That's one of the great things that Coach Roman is trying to teach us. Having a balanced run, balanced pass, play action game, having everything in our arsenal. So that we go out and defenses have to play it straight up. I think we've done a great job of running the first couple of games. There's a lot of room for improvement for us as an offense, and so we're looking forward to watching this film and getting better. Coach Roman has done a good job of getting us in a position to succeed.

On RB J.K. Dobbins

No, you know, he is a special player. We knew that he was going to go to go up and something special was going to happen. He's awesome. He's a great teammate, great leader. He's a guy that speaks in the locker room. Everyone respects him. He works hard. He does everything the right way on and off the field, and we're not surprised by his success. We knew how special he was.

On if his leg is ok

I must have just got rolled up. Big pile, got rolled up. Walked off. Was a little sore. Taped it up. Went in and got an X-ray. We'll know more the next couple of days, but was able to finish the game and keep moving around on it, so I'm looking forward to it.

On spending the week in Charlotte and if it is an important stepping stone as they build together and bond and spend the week together

I think it definitely could be. It depends how you look at it. I'm of the mindset it's a great opportunity for us to be together, to focus on our game, and in the off time spend time with each other, get to know each other. I think any time you spend a week with your guys, especially like it is in camp, I think it's an opportunity for us to grow and to get better. We'll watch the film on this one and keep pushing. I'm looking forward to it.

On the mindset of the offensive lineman

To play downhill. To believe in those guys and know that they're smart, they're athletic, and they're physical, and they're tough. Those guys, you know, they haven't gotten the credit they deserve. They should get all of it. They're so tough. Such a great group of guys, communicate, work with one another, and as long as we're running behind them, I think we're going to run pretty well.

On watching the defense dominate two weeks in a row

Complete confidence. We go to the sideline and we know the defense is going out there and they're giving their best shot. We're going to get the ball back here pretty soon. Whether it's turnovers, stops, they find a way to come up with some big plays. They're really well-coached. They've got some really good athletes on that side of the ball. We know we've seen it in OTAs and we've seen it in camp. We're not surprised by it at all.

CHARGERS RUNNING BACK J.K. DOBBINS

On if he's reached his full potential the first two week

Yes. I've been telling y'all all offseason. No one believed me but I'm speaking the word of God. I'm telling y'all what God's telling me and showing me. A lot of people talked about my injuries but they were unfortunate. That storm might be over. You know what I'm saying, I think it's over. I think God showed me what he needed to show me. And I am healthy now and I've been telling y'all, when I'm healthy, I can be one of the best. I thank God every day for my talents and I'll keep shining as long as he keeps blessing me.

On Gus Edwards' blocking on a big running play

That's my guy. I went back and told him that was because of him. I love this team, I'm a team player and I just want to win the game. So, if I get one yard or 200 yards, win the game, that's all I want to do.

On the biggest difference in the first half this week versus last week

We were locked in and we didn't shoot ourselves in the foot. Everybody off and locked in and nobody making silly mistakes. And you see what we can do and we just got to keep getting better. That wasn't our best and we're going to keep getting better each and every week.

On if he felt like he's exceeded expectations the first two weeks with the long runs

No, because healthy J.K. hasn't had the chance to get those opportunities. I thank God because he was the one opening the holes for me. As long as God keeps blessing me, I'm going to keep making those runs.

On what he saw on the 43-yard touchdown run

I saw an opening and I took it. Last week, I got caught and I wasn't going to let that happen this week and hopefully I'm not going to let it happen again. Unless someone runs a 4.2, I don't run a 4.2 so they may catch me.

On running behind the offensive line

It's amazing. It's so cool. Those guys have been blocking their tails but we've all been working for this. We have a chemistry that is really good. All those guys are my brothers, we love each other and I would do anything for them. A lot of people are seeing the runs but they're not seeing the dirty works with the blocks. It's a testament to Bradley Bozeman to get me in the right spot, calling out the calls, communicating. We're just seeing with the same eyes so it's good.

CHARGERS CENTER BRADLEY BOZEMAN

On the chemistry on the offensive line

You can see it. You see our identity starting to form. But like I said before, we'll do whatever the hell we have to do to make sure that things work right. So, if we got to pass it 60 times, run it 60 times, do 60 screens, 60 draws, whatever it has to be, we'll make it work.

On being able to dominate the line of scrimmage

It's a great feeling. I don't think the score is reflective of the dominance we had today but we did some great things out there but we also have some things to clean up. It was a great feeling for sure.

On talking to his former teammates after the game

Everyone understands this but between those 60 minutes, no one is friends out there. No one is buddy, buddy. Me and Shaq (Thompson) were that way to start with when we walked out as captains, just straight face, straight look and we know what it is. But when the buzzer goes off and the game is over with, you go out and say hi to everyone and embrace those guys. I don't have any regrets of my time here. It feels so great for the city of Charlotte, the people of Charlotte, the players over there, the guys that I've met and know so there's no hard feelings there.

CHARGERS LINEBACKER DAIYAN HENLEY

On what worked defensively today

I think for the most part, it was all about communication. The team was out there, we were having fun. We knew what we came out to do, and we were just prepared.

On having a veteran linebacker like Denzel Perryman in the locker room

He's definitely my big brother. Fun, loving, a bully, all of the above. I just like the part where he is so professional. He doesn't talk like that around us. That was so collected, so well-spoken. You can learn a lot.

CHARGERS LINEBACKER DENZEL PERRYMAN

On holding the Panthers on third downs

That's a big improvement from where we were last week. During the preseason, that was one of the big things that we were working on – getting off the field on third-down. Honestly, that's a big accomplishment, man and we have to continue to play consistently together next week to have the same results.

On his sack early in the game

Honestly, I kind of messed up on that play. I was supposed to drop out a little quicker than I did. I just read the quarterback. As far as setting the tone, it's just kind of what I do.

On his time in Carolina

Honestly, I was there for OTAs and training camp. I like to say that I interned over there. It's a comeback, man. I came here last year. Love the team

CHARGERS DEFENSIVE BACK ELIJAH MOLDEN

On the improvement defensively from Week 1 to Week 2

From the first game to the second game, we were just communicating really well and were on the same page. And then just film study, knowing what their offense likes to do and taking that away.

On the interception

It just felt like practice. They gave me a look I knew from their offense and what they wanted to do and as soon as I read that, he stemmed and I just broke it off before it happened.

On being able to fit in with the rest of the defense

It's a special group and I feel like God put me right where I needed to be. I'm just having a lot of fun and these last two weeks I've been all in the playbook and now I feel like I'm able to play free now.

On the success of holding the Panthers on third down

I think just mixing up the coverages. Coach Minter has a great game plan. I love playing for him and we just executed well.